

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed 31 October 2006, is filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114 in fulfillment of the submission requirement therein. Claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 8-9 are pending. Claims 1 and 6 are amended above.

At the outset, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of the Examiner in granting an interview to Applicant's representative, which interview was held 12 December 2006. An Examiner's interview summary was made of record on 21 December 2006, which Applicant adopts as complete and accurate.

Amendments to the Claims

Consistent with the agreement reached in the aforementioned interview, independent claims 1 and 6 are amended to explicitly recite that the space through which combustion gases are bypassed around the filter surrounds the filter. This amendment is fully supported by the original disclosure, for example Figs. 1-2, and no new matter has been added. This amendment is offered by way of clarification only, and does not, nor should it be interpreted to, surrender any subject matter from the claims.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102

Consistent with the agreement reached in the aforementioned interview, claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 8-9 as clarified above, are patentably distinguished over the references of record. Therefore,

Applicant kindly requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and an early and favorable Notice of Allowability.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
SYSTEM ON January 25, 2007.

RCF/DJT:lf

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert C. Faber", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700